

No. 27 Lipp 23 to 24

translating wood

or botanical notes

Cynanche Trachealis

Or

Croup

By Samuel C. Dickenson of New
Hampshire March 15 1816

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No 125 South 7th Street

and were waiting

for the arrival of

the day when

they could be

with their wife

and children

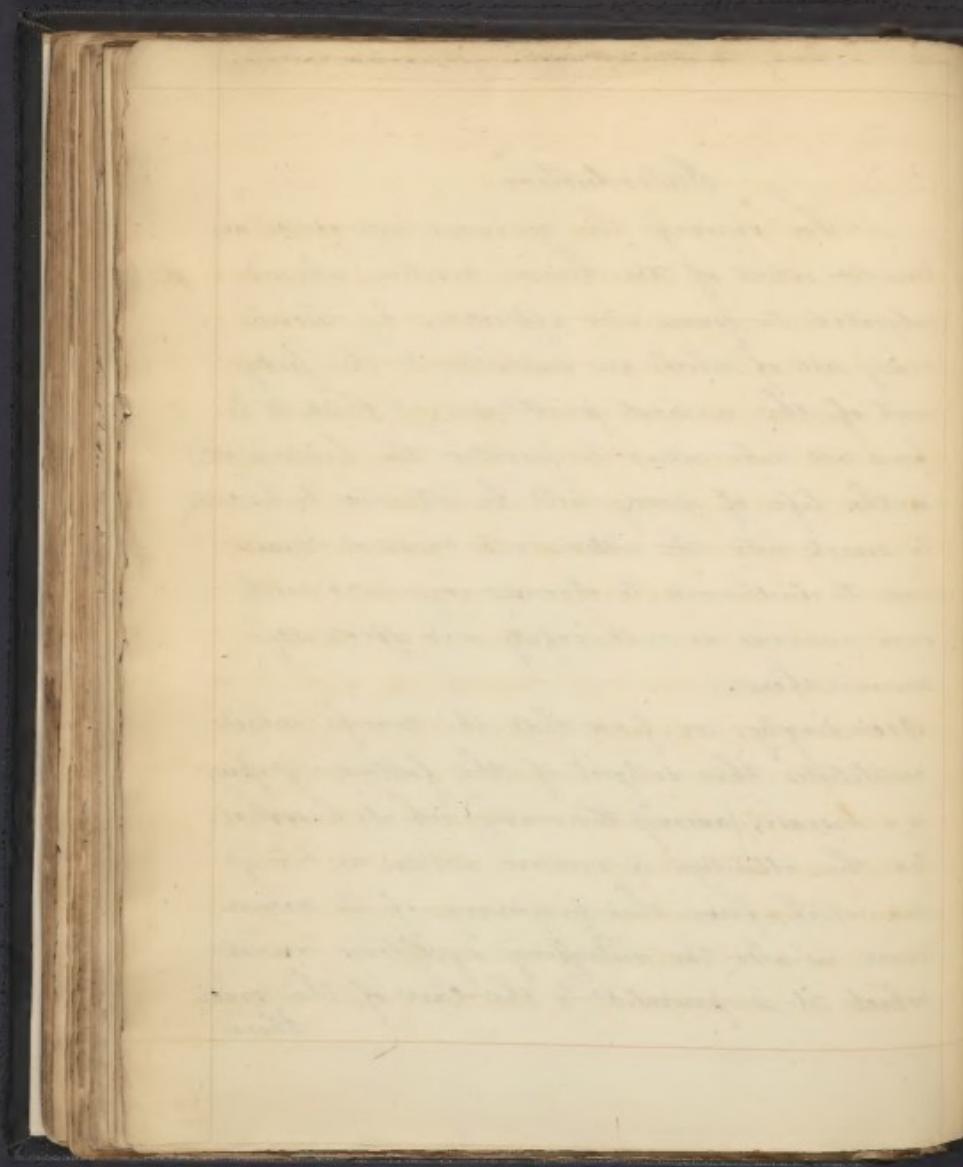
and all the rest

of the world.

Introduction

In viewing the numerous and almost unbounded extent of the human creation, who are subjected to pains and afflictions by disease, nearly all of which are submitted to the judgment of the medical practitioner; I think it behoves all who intend to practice the healing art, as the life of many will be intrusted to his care, to search into the nature and causes of diseases and to endeavour to become acquainted with such remedies as will safely and effectually remove them.

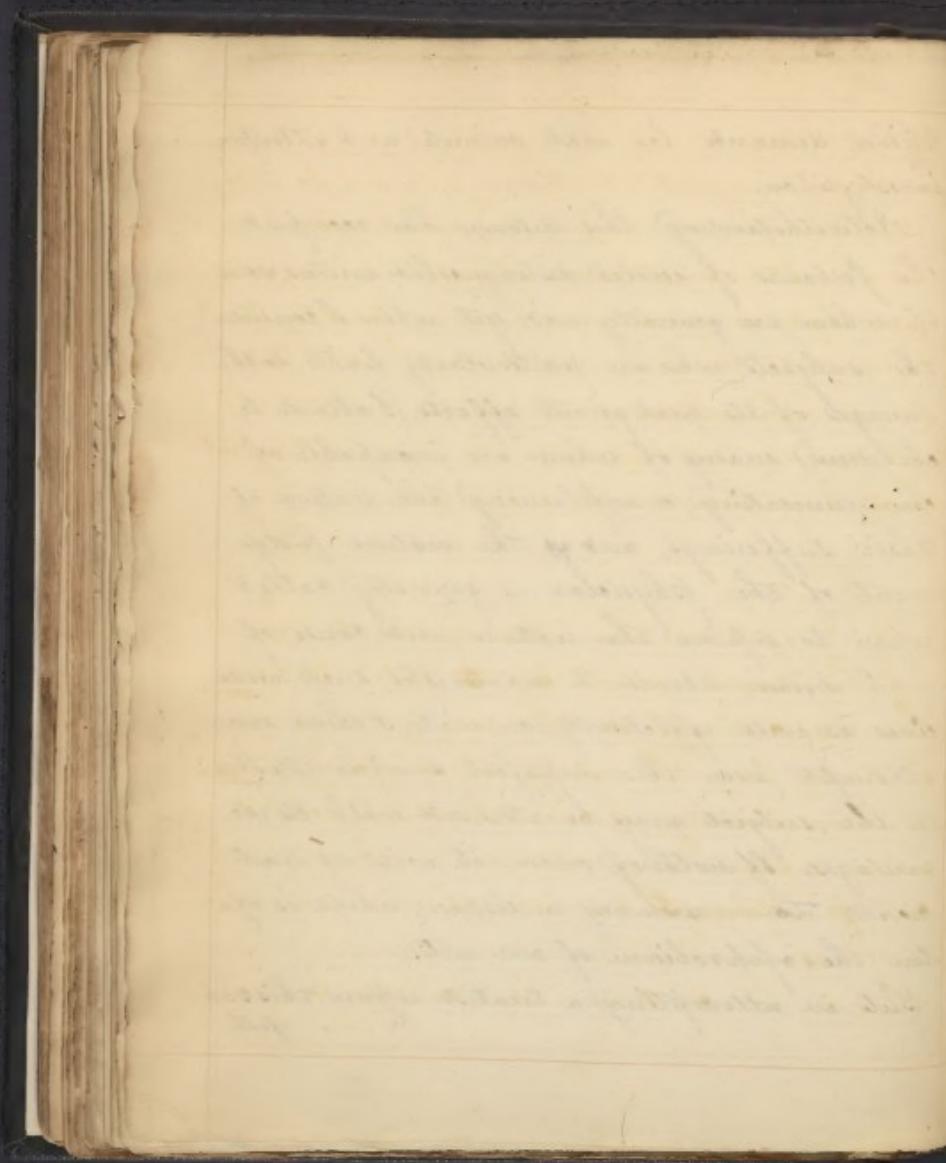
Accordingly, we find that the croup (which constitutes the subject of the following page) is a disease, (among the many) which has solicited the attention of medical writers; as being one, which, from the frequency of its occurrence, as also the distressing symptoms under which it is presented to the care of the practitioner



tilions, demands his most minute and attentive investigation.

Notwithstanding this disease has occupied the labours of several distinguished writers, some of whom are generally read; yet when I consider the subjects who are particularly liable to the ravages of its malignant effects, (I allude to children,) many of whom are incapable of communicating, or explaining the nature of their sufferings, and as the mature judgment of the physician is generally called upon to explore the nature and cause of such disease, likewise to administer such medicines as will effectually cure it; I think every attempt (even this imperfect one) to illustrate the subject may be attended with its advantages. If nothing more, it will at least recall to the memory a disease, which is often the opprobrium of our art.

But, in attempting a treatise upon this subject



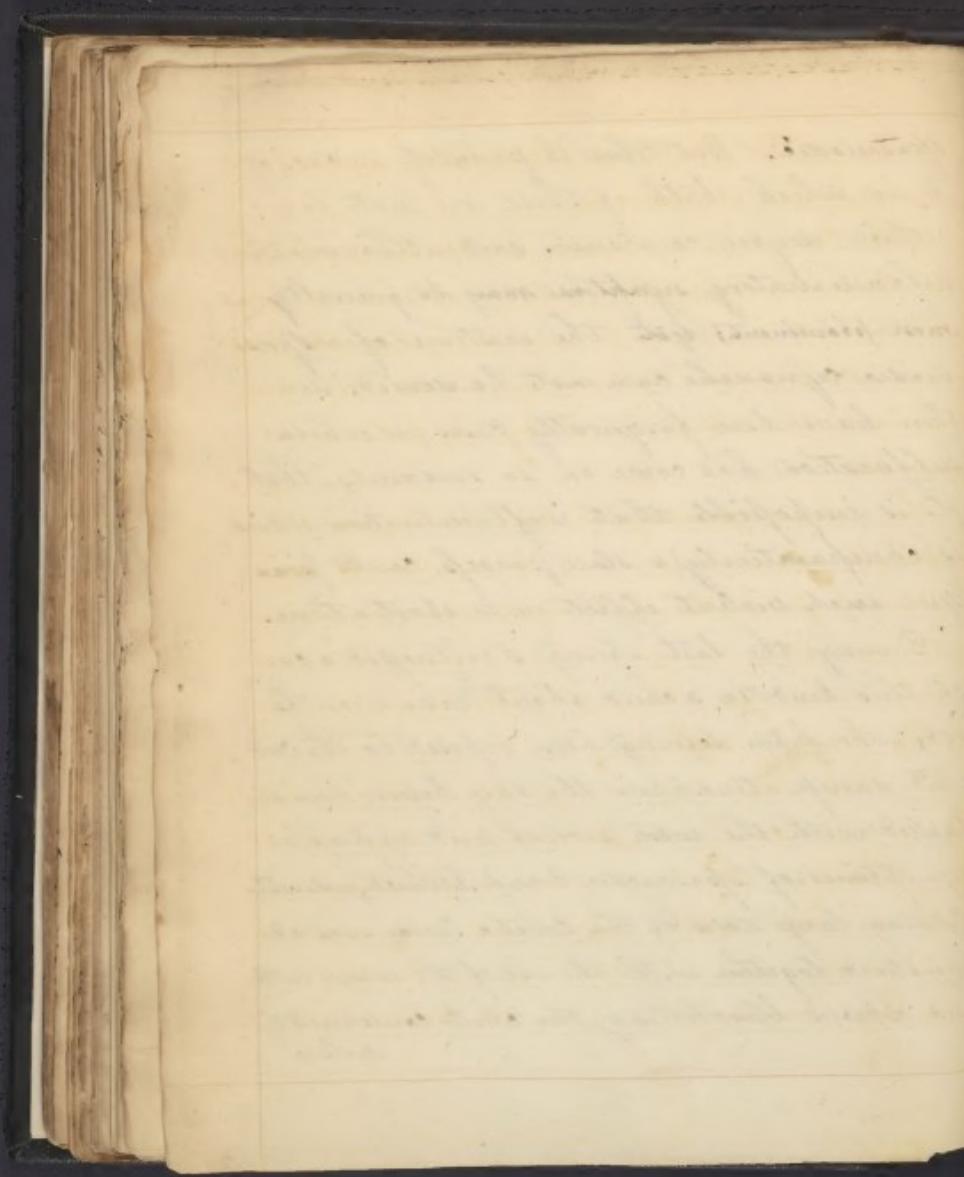
fect I do not anticipate any thing new. Neither could it be expected that one who has been so little engaged in the practice, ^{of which} should add any thing; after practitioners of great eminence have had so much experience in treating it. My remarks therefore, will be confined to ~~and~~^a general ^{view} ~~observation~~ of its nature, symptoms and causes, together with the treatment which ~~has~~ been found most successful.

Cynanche Trachealis, or Croup

This disease, which by its fatal termination has cut off in the very germ of life (if I may use the expression) so many of the human family, is one, which has excited some difference of opinion among medical practitioners. It has been contended by some, that it is an inflammatory disease; while others on the contrary have considered it as spasmodic.

spasmodic. But, there is, probably, no case of it, in which both of these are not to a certain degree combined, and although the inflammatory symptoms may be generally most prominent; yet, the existence of a spasmodic Cynanche can not be denied. For there have been frequently cases in which suffocation has come on so suddenly, that it is impossible that inflammation which is (comparatively) a slow process, could produce such violent effects in so short a time.

During the last spring I witnessed a case of this kind in a child about nine months old, who from having been exposed to the cold and damp atmosphere the day before, was attacked with the most violent and oppressive symptoms of spasmodic Croup. Which notwithstanding standing large doses of the Emetic Tartar was administered together with the use of the warm bath and copious blood-letting, the child continued to decline



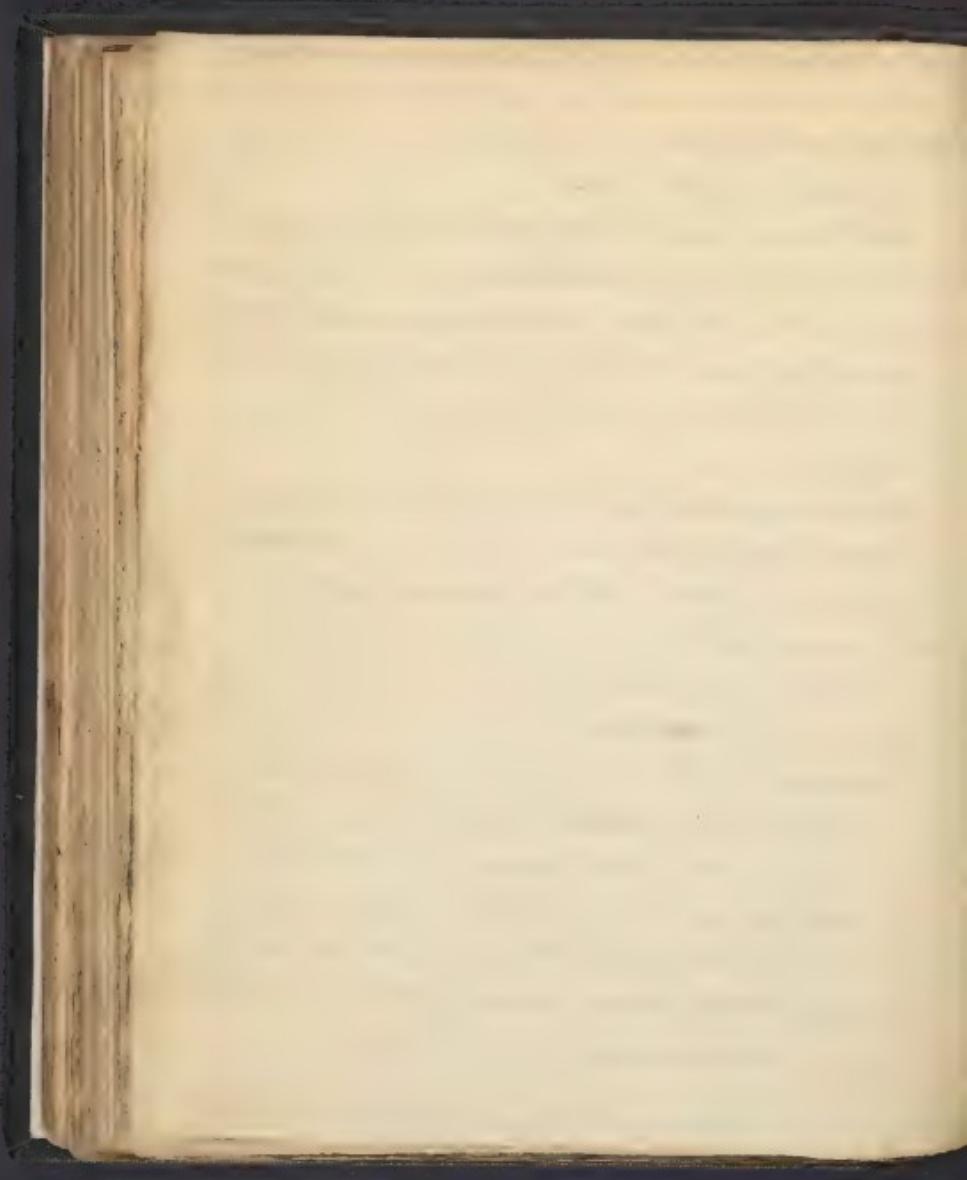
decline until Death in the space of twelve hours removed her sufferings.

The Croup is a disease particularly incident to children; though it seldom attacks them at the breast and rarely over ten years old. Yet there are, however, instances of adults being consigned to the silent tomb by its fatal consequences.

This disease, according to Dr. Cullen, sometimes prevails epidemically, and is peculiar ~~to~~ ^{to} some families; but it is never contagious. It generally comes on with a slight cold & other symptoms of fever; such as, heat of the body, &c.

Sometimes it comes on in the form of a cold, and thus continues three or four days and then it takes on the true form of the Disease.

It likewise makes its attack very suddenly; and I have seen it terminate in death in the space of twelve hours from its commencement.

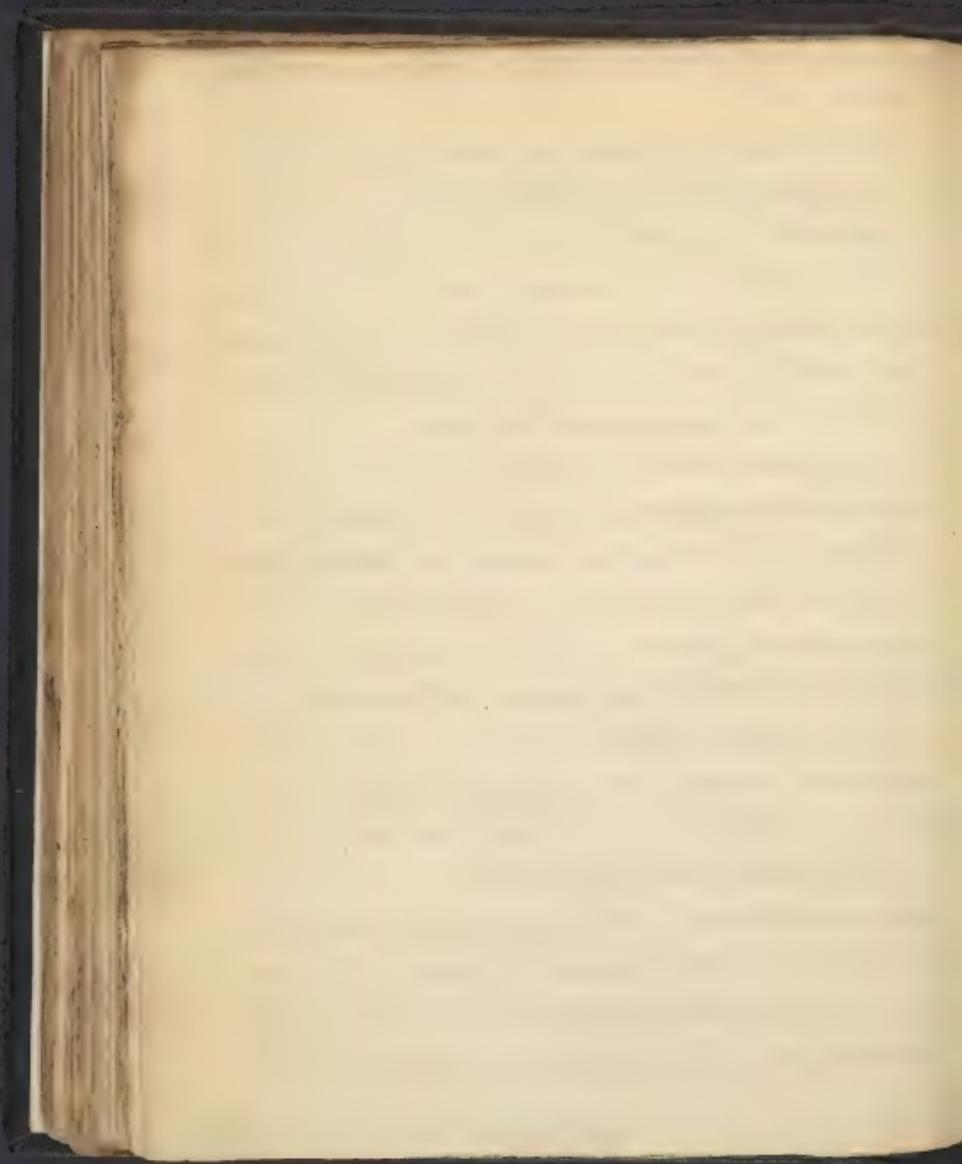


the peculiar symptoms which characterise this disease are, a difficult respiration attended with a whoozy impure noise in inspiration, a harsh dry cough, comparing some to the shrill barking of a dog, and sometimes attended with rattlings deglutition is somewhat impeded, and there is a sense of stiffness about the Larynx, and an increase frequency of the voice.

As the disease advances respiration becomes more & more difficult and is performed with greater effortfully, the eyes become swollen red and watery, the cheeks bluster, and the mouth is often lined with a viscid saliva, the patient complains of heat over the whole body attended with thirst, insomnias, and a continual desire to change from place to place.

Sometimes a degree of drowsiness comes on, from which, however, the little sufferer is often aroused by a violent cough and fits of suffocation.

Among the causes which produce this disease, the application of cold & moisture appear to be the most general, as it prevails most frequently in the winter

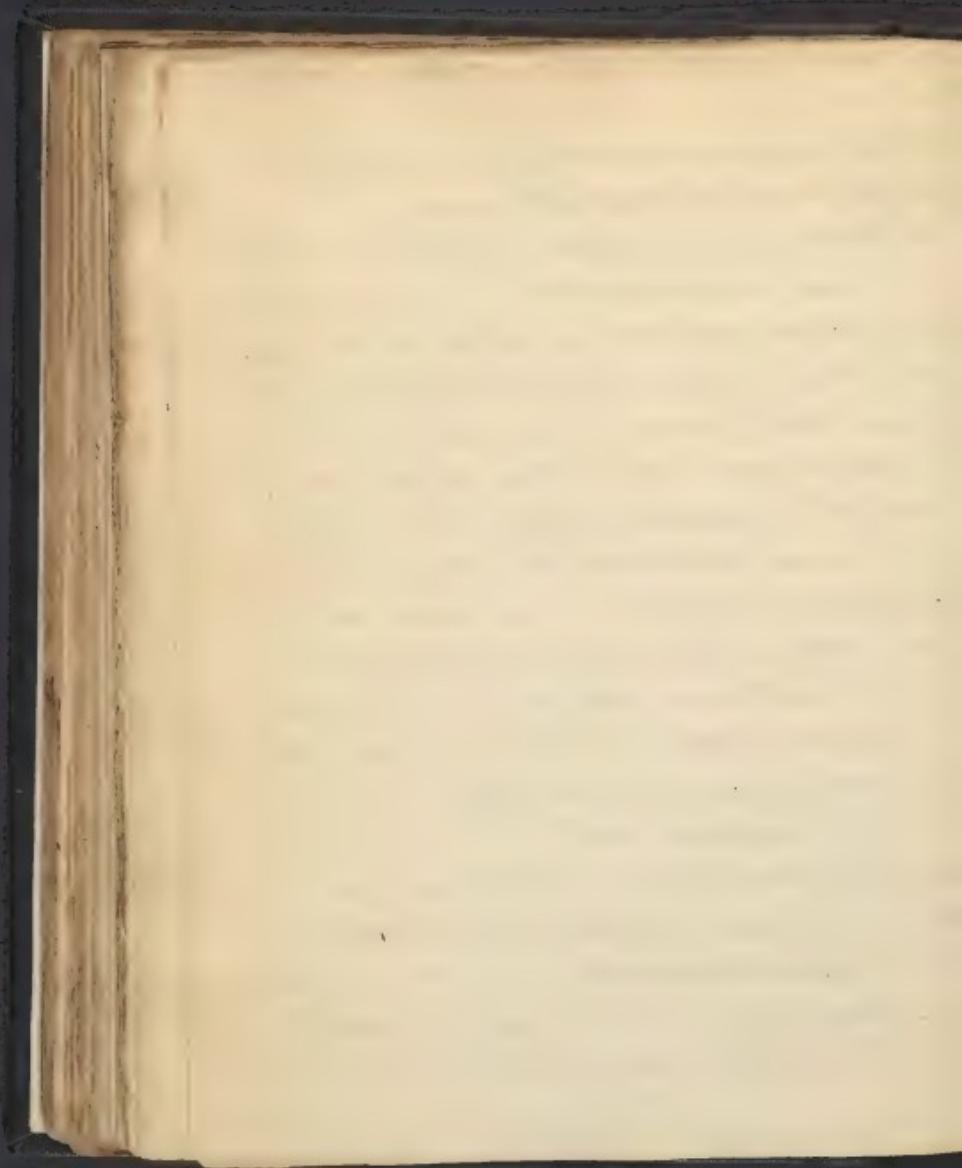


winter and spring seasons. It is also sometimes produced by marsh miasma and worms.

The duration of this disease is very equivocal, in some cases it has terminated in a few hours, and in others not for several days and ^{even} one or two weeks. Much however, depends upon the degree of inflammation, the violence of the spasms, and the strength and constitution of the patient.

From the descriptions of those who have died of this disease, it is observed, that there is always to be found a lymphatic incrustation, or membranous substance lining the larynx. That there never does exist a membrane I will not deny; as my observations have been very limited. But in the only two cases which I have seen, there was no membrane, but a collection of mucus.

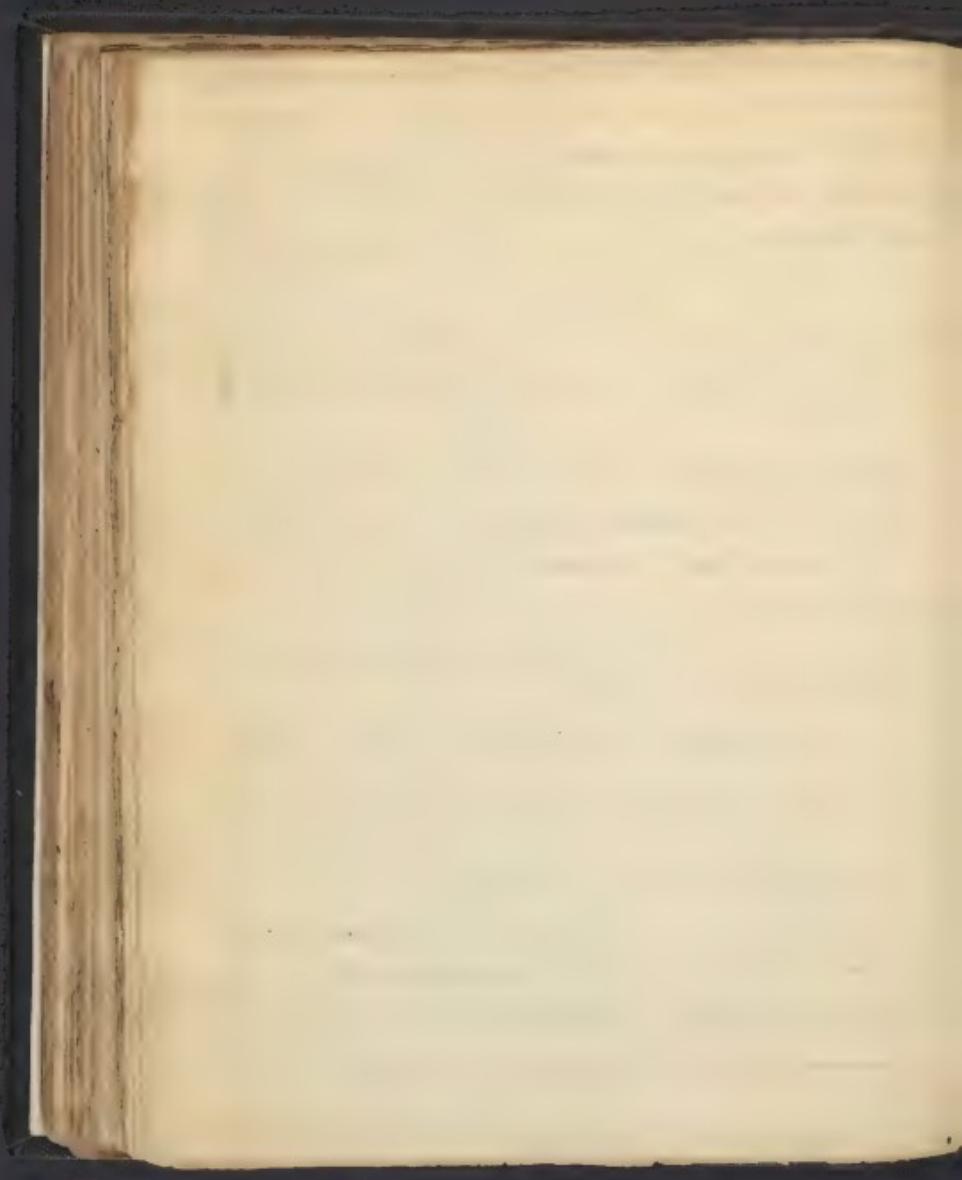
From the violent effects of this disease upon the system, and also from its speedy and fatal termination, we should resort to the most active remedies to arrest its progress. Therefore, if there be much inflammation, we should first resort to blood-letting as the most proper.



proper remedy, and which had of itself proved of
peculiar efficacy in putting a stop to its rapid progress.
The blood may be drawn either from the fu-
gular vein or arm; proportioning the quan-
tity to the age and habit of the child; and
if the breathing be very difficult it should
be drawn in a large quantity.

If the symptoms should not abate, or if
they should return, topical bleeding by
the application of soot to the Throat
should immediately be resorted to, but, pro-
nicious general bleeding should not be omitted.

The abstraction of blood in children
has however, been objected to by some prac-
titioners, supposing them more apt to sink
under its operation. But, the hypothesis is
entirely erroneous, and in its effect, won't be
often attended with the most trifling and con-
sequences. For, it has been satisfactorily proven
by very experienced practitioners, that bleed-
ing

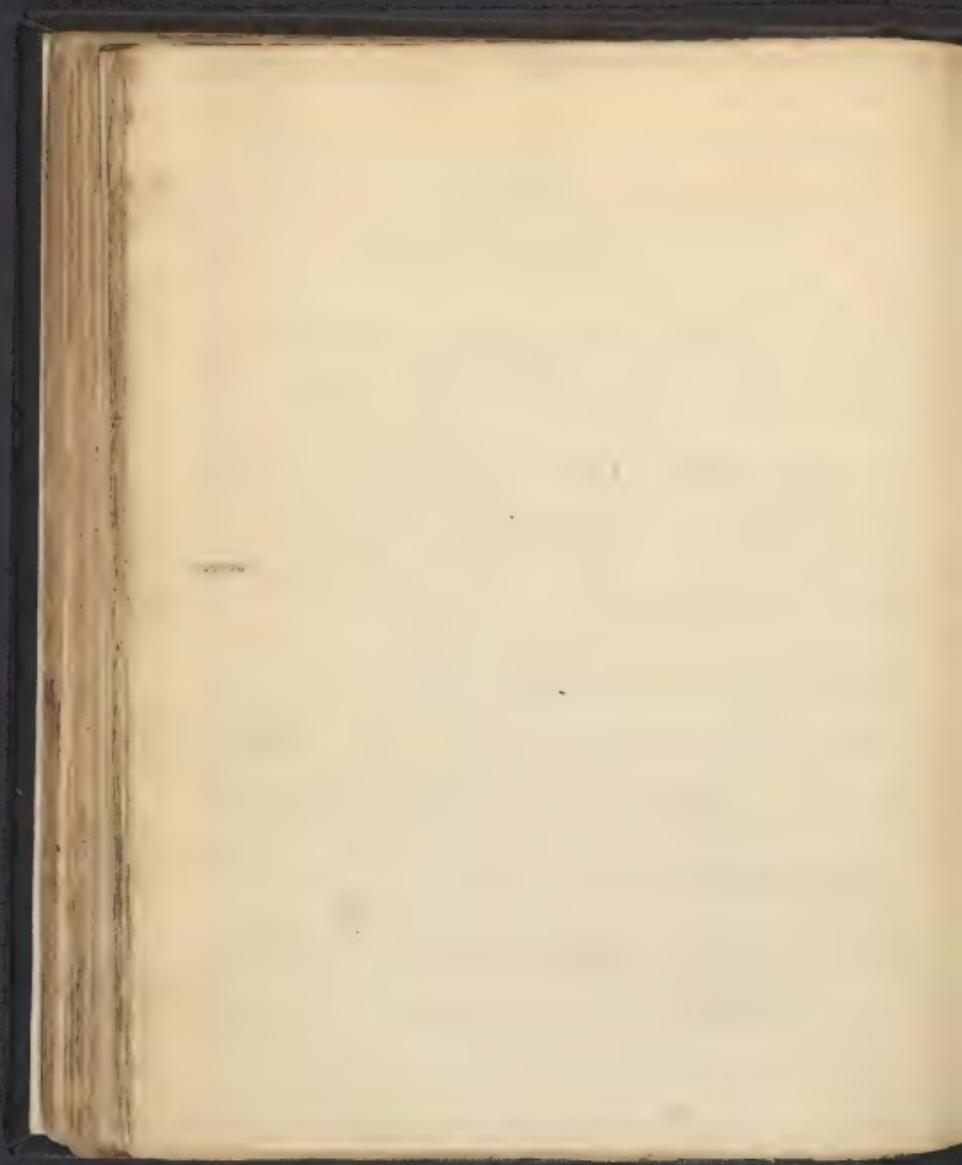


Letting may be used with as much safety
in the complaints of children, as in those of
adults; and that they certainly recover much
sooner from its effects.

There are however some cases in which the im-
pending dissolution of life is so stran-
gulating, as to require remedies of more speed.
In such cases, apply yourself, soon
'ect lists, and have alone cure the disease
which impairs safety, and in sufficiently large
doses to 'rouse' life.

Emetics are also highly beneficial in the in-
flammatory stages of Cough, after bleeding,
appearing mechanically to remove the mucus
from the lining membrane of the Trachea; and
also, by relaxing the spasm and producing
a determination to the surface.

The emetics generally used are, the Tartarised
Antimony, Sulphate of Zinc, Senna, Salmagundi
wine, Turpeth mineral combined with Specie



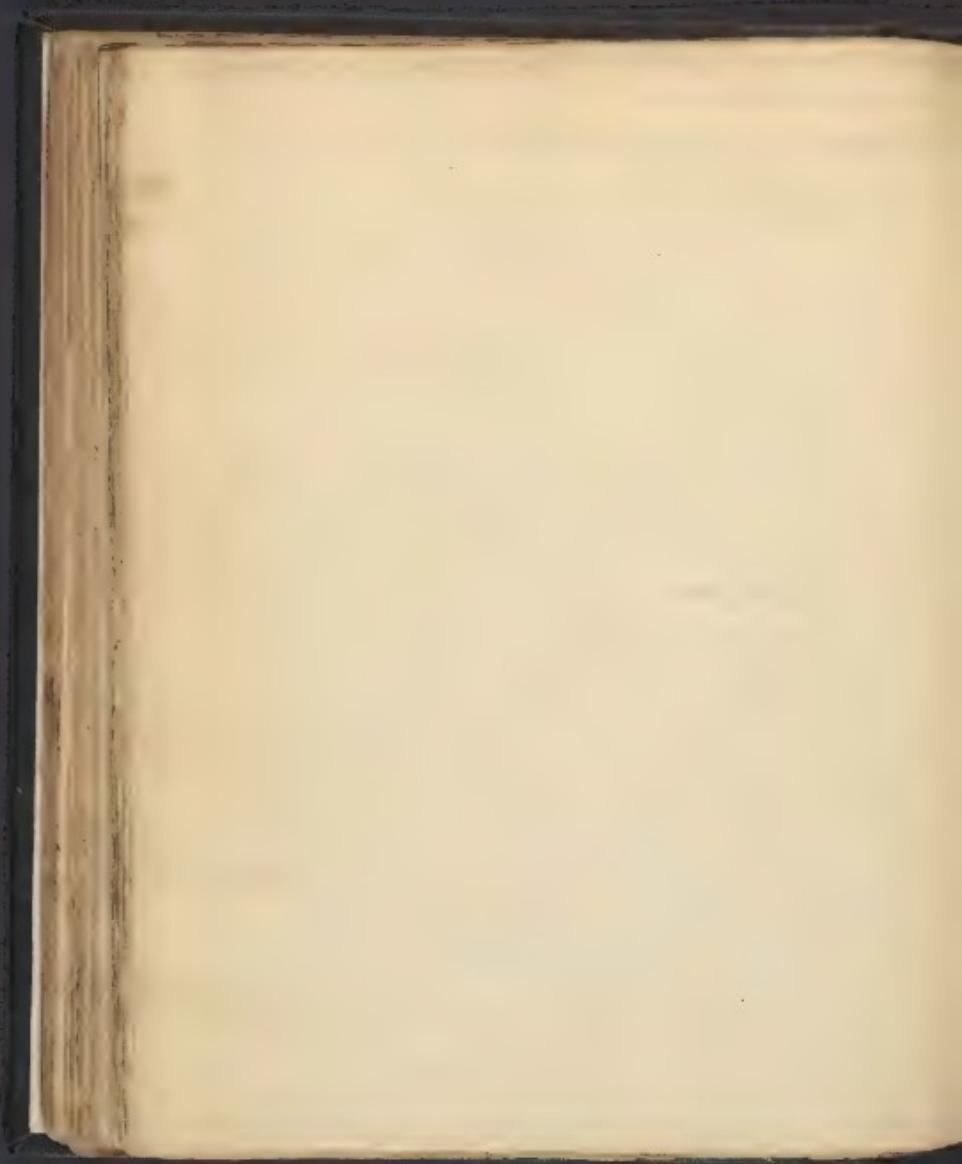
and equitt. But the ^{hot} bathed ordinary is
generally preferred.

To assist the operation of motion the warm
bath is very beneficial, and the ingenious
Dr Chahud related a case in which he was
called to a child nine months old who was labour-
ing under the most violent and protracted symp-
toms of croup; in which he gave fifteen grains of
cortic Starke without any effect until aided
by the warm bath and various blandition. It
then had the desired effect, and snatched, as it
were, the little sufferer from the jaws of death.

The application of linon over the spine
behind the neck and down to the chest are of
ten attended with the happiest effect.

When the bowels are costive we should
give Calomel purgat in doses sufficiently large
to evacuate fully the alimentary canals.

This valuable medicine ~~was~~ first intro-
duced into the treatment of this disease by

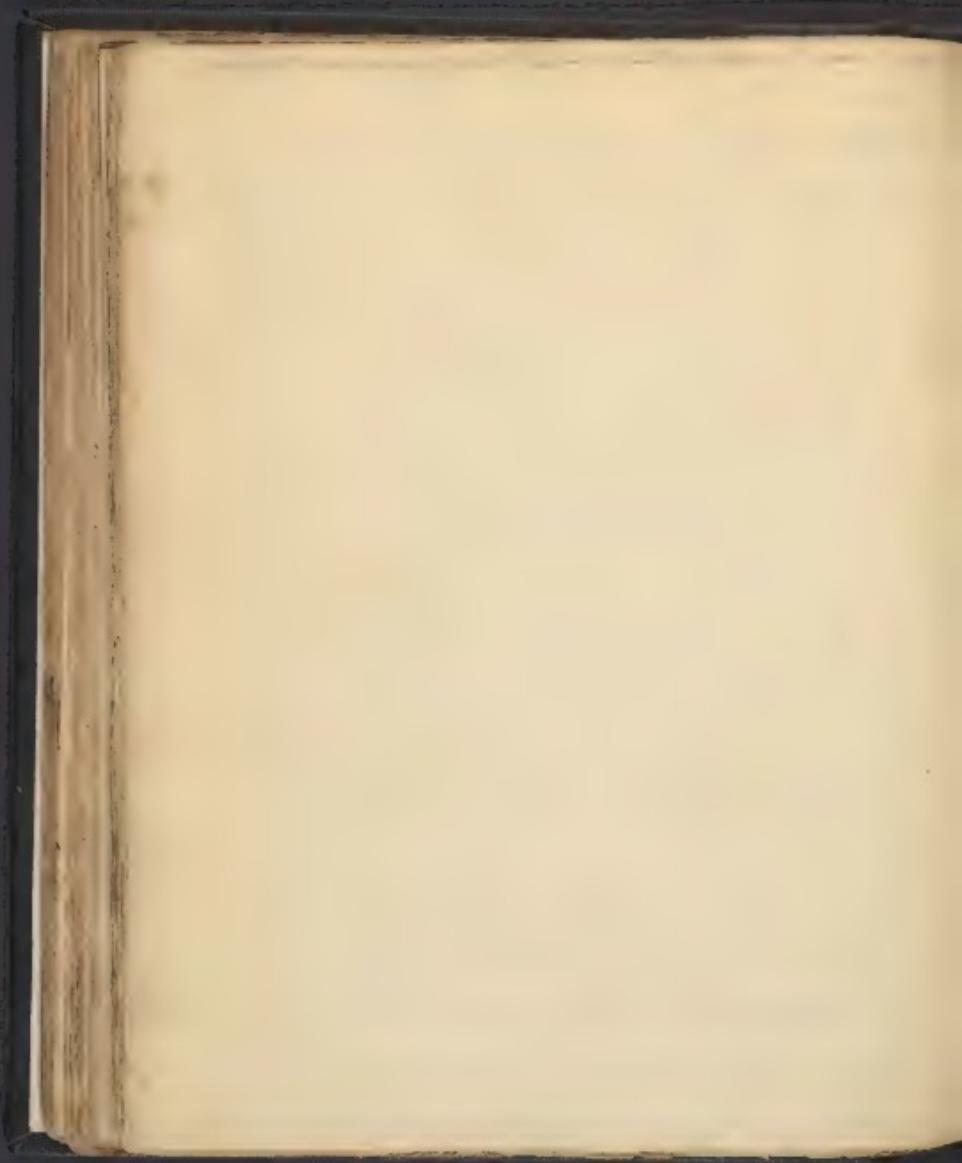


Dr Kew, has been used in innumerable instances with the greatest benefit." And Dr Hamilton observes that in every case in which he has used it previous to the appearance of lividness of the lips and other mortal symptoms, he has succeeded effectually in curing the disease.

Diaphoretics, particularly the antennal relaxations, are sometimes of service; especially if it depend on a suppressed perspiration.

When the disease becomes more mild, but there still remains a cough, or hoarseness, with a tightness of the chest and difficult expectoration, the *Bulgaria* tincture given in decoction is attended with advantage. likewise the ointment of squill may be used to assist the expectoration.

When this disease assumes the spasmody form opiates and antispasmodics, such as Ether, if given in large doses at the commencement of the attack are often attended with very good



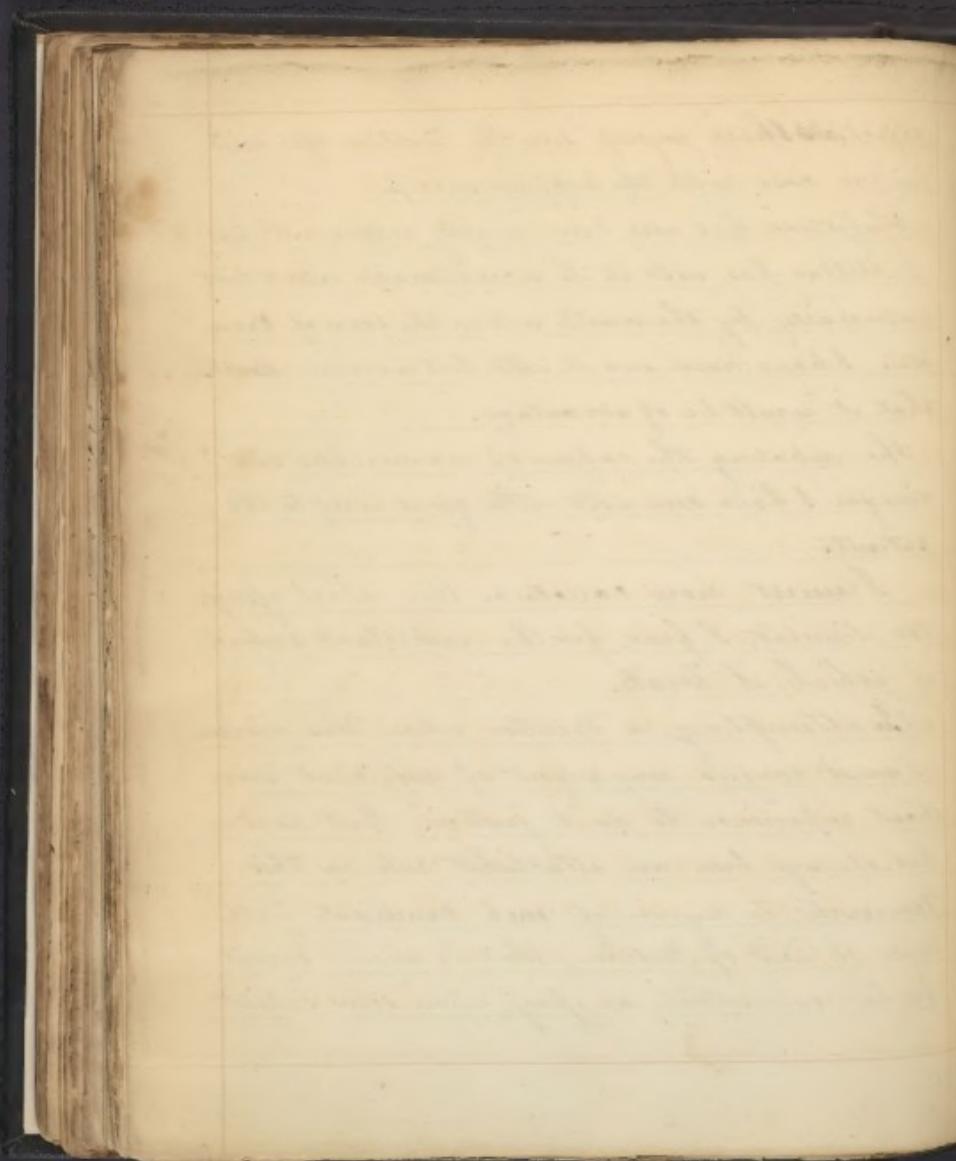
effect; and have myself seen the Tinctura opii used
in one case with the happiest success.

Afaoetida has also been highly recommended, and
Dr. Millar has used it to a considerable extent both
internally by the mouth and in the form of Enem-
ata. I have never seen it used, but have no doubt
that it would be of advantage.

The inhaling the vapour of warm water and
vinegar I have seen used with great relief to the
patient.

I must now conclude this short essay:
too limited, I fear, for the important subject
of which it treats.

In attempting a treatise upon this disease,
I must confess my want of sufficient prac-
tical experience to do it justice. But, as it
has always been an established rule in this
University, to require of each candidate for the
degree of Doctor of Medicine, that he should submit
for his examination, an essay upon some subject



Connected with the science of Medicine, I have
been induced to offer such remarks upon the fore-
going disease, as have come more particularly
under my observation. And, although I feel con-
scious of its imperfection, yet it has been composed
with such assiduity and labour that it will not,
I hope, be altogether unworthy the attention of the
learned gentlemen, who preside in this University.
Should I be successful in obtaining their appro-
bation, my wishes will be highly gratified and
my labour amply rewarded.

But I cannot stop here: I should think myself
destitute of humanity and gratitude, were I not to
avail myself of this opportunity of returning ^{you} my
sincere acknowledgments for the many advantages
derived from your instructive lectures.

That you may, in health, long continue to ins-
pire, into the minds of your audience, those salu-
tary admonitions, is the wish of the

Author

